

✓
see
Atlanta Expos-
1895
Expos

610

An Estimate of the Atlanta Exposition.

FROM THE HIGHEST BOARD OF AWARD.

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

COTTON STATES AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, ATLANTA, GA., October 21, 1895.

The undersigned, jurors and members of the highest board of award, having visited the principal departments of the Atlanta Exposition and having had the advantage of guidance and suggestions from the most qualified experts, think it important to communicate our impressions to the public throughout the country by the agency of the newspaper press, in advance of such reports as may be hereafter made to the constituted authorities. We desire to call attention to the educational value of the Atlanta Exposition, its important relations to industry, and its manifold indications of the progress of the useful and liberal arts. But in this brief paper we can only indicate a few of the most significant characteristics.

1. The exhibits of the national government constitute a unique, complete and instructive illustration of its wise and beneficent functions. Within a building of moderate size, examples are given of the work of the federal government in its relations to statesmanship, international intercourse, the administration of justice, the promotion of commerce, domestic and foreign, the postal service and the control of the national finances; the arts of national defense on land and sea; the development of agriculture, forestry, mines and mineral wealth, fisheries and fish culture; the protection and promotion of commerce by surveys of the coast, the lakes, the rivers and the mountains, the study of the climate and the forecasting of the weather; the maintenance of lighthouses and life-saving stations; the education and civilization of the Indian; the encouragement of invention, literature and the fine arts by protecting the rights of the inventor, the writer and the artist; the advancement and diffusion of knowledge through the agency of the Smithsonian institution, the national museum, the manifold services of the bureau of education and the collection of great libraries; the study of the diseases of the human race and also of plants and animals, and the protection of life by cautionary and remedial agencies; the prevention of epidemics and the regulation of the food supply:—These all, exhibited in a compact form, bring before the people the noblest offices of a strong, comprehensive, well-ordered government and are the best exhibition of the kind that has ever been made.

2. We admire the civic pride displayed by the citizens of Atlanta, 'The Gate City of the South,' which in thirty years has risen from the devastations of fire and sword, poverty and distress, and now illustrates in many ways and especially in this Exposition what may be done for the advancement of a vast region by the union, enterprise, generosity, knowledge and skill of an unselfish and voluntary body of citizens, harmoniously organized.

3. The varied and inexhaustible resources of the Cotton States, their mineral wealth, agricultural products, manufactures and railroads, as well as their systems of education, are well displayed in many departments of the Exposition, but especially in the comprehensive exhibits that have been made by the States of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas.

4. There are many admirable signs of interstate co-operation and social intercourse. The visits of the President and Vice-President of the United States, of the Governors of many distant States, often attended by large escorts of their fellow-citizens, the assemblies of bankers, engineers, teachers, women, of religious and philanthropic associations and of patriotic societies, the recognition of the African, and especially the meeting of many thousands of soldiers in friendly intercourse, the blue and the gray, homeward bound from Chickamauga, illustrate the good will and fraternity now prevalent among the citizens of our united republic and the re-establishment not only of peace, but of sympathy among those who have been widely separated. In addition to the buildings of the Cotton States, those constructed by New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Illinois, and that of California, with its contents, afford additional evidences of this friendly relationship.

5. Women have made most important contributions to this Exposition. The Woman's Building, designed by a woman, is entitled, in the opinion of one of our most highly qualified judges, to a place next to the highest among all the constructions of Piedmont Park. The illustrations of woman's work are attractive and suggestive. The services rendered by women in collecting and

exhibiting papers, relics, mementos pertinent to colonial and revolutionary history promote a spirit of patriotism, a love of our social institutions, and the preservation of records hitherto overlooked and neglected. There is here a rare opportunity to see many original documents and portraits. The educational and charitable work is excellent, and in all departments of embroidery and other branches of decorative art the exhibits of the Woman's Building are unsurpassed.

6. Among the innumerable illustrations of skilled labor the visitor should not fail to notice—

(a). The inventions and apparatus which have promoted extraordinary changes in our civilization by the agencies of electricity—a domain in which the successors of Benjamin Franklin have won continuous renown, and are still achieving successes as promising as they are surprising. Let it be borne in mind that the telephone was introduced at the Exposition of 1876, and that only two dynamos, and those insignificant, could then and there be seen.

(b). The improvements in the means of transportation, by which the safety, the comfort and the pleasure of travelers are promoted, and immense cargoes are transported, the familiar arrangements of railroads and steamers, the multiplication of bicycles and of rapid transit devices, and the varied indications that good roads for ordinary traffic are soon to be in universal demand.

(c). The improvements in machinery illustrating the skill of the mechanic, in instruments of precision which are indispensable for the advancement of all the arts, in labor-saving inventions, and in the better utilization of fire, water, steam and electricity.

(d). The development of the industries of coal and iron, the discovery and utilization of new mineral products.

(e). The manifold devices for more economical and advantageous utilization of food substances, resulting in the prevention of waste, the reduction of prices and the protection of the consumer from disease and dirt,—these being largely the outgrowth of improved methods of refrigeration and of simple but most serviceable modes of packing and transportation.

(f). The contents of the building devoted to mines and forestry is one of the most interesting exhibits, containing admirable examples of our natural resources. Let the observer notice, without fail, a model of the wearing out or erosion of a farm—after the forests were cut down—and its restoration when the planting of trees began.

(g). The progress of fruit culture and horticulture is well illustrated by exhibits of California raisins and olive oils, apples from Arkansas, and many other varied and beautiful displays.

These are only examples which might be indefinitely multiplied.

7. We ask attention to the exhibits that illustrate the progress of education and science. From the nature of the case, these exhibits are easily passed by. But here may be studied the progress of learning in this country from the foundation of Harvard, William and Mary, and Yale to the present time; the modern schools of science and technology, agriculture and the mechanic arts; the new universities; the contributions of the United States government and of separate States to the advancement of science, and the universal establishment of common schools from the kindergarten upward. We are deeply impressed by the evidence here afforded of the importance of promoting the study of exact science, and of encouraging the best methods of manual and industrial training among girls and boys, women and men, blacks and whites.

8. The advancement of the colored population in intelligence, industry and enterprise is shown—though, apart from the educational exhibits, not as adequately shown as for their own sake we could wish—in the Negro Building, where may be seen illustrations of the steps by which an emancipated race is advancing in freedom, knowledge, skill and thrift. Every visitor should observe with an appreciative spirit this suggestive and comprehensive exhibit. The attitude of the authorities of the Exposition toward the colored race has received widespread recognition and approbation.

9. The Exposition affords very striking evidence that the last ten years have been prolific in inventions for saving time, and for economizing the nervous force of those who work with their brains. It is worth while to note the general use of stenography, typewriting, long-distance telephony, phonography, and other devices which may be called nerve-saving, time-saving and life-saving inventions.

10. The international character of the Exposition is not its principal feature; only five foreign governments—namely, the Argentine Republic, Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Chile—being represented by official commissioners. Other countries are represented by the contributions of private exhibitors, which have added much to the interest of the display. Especial mention should be made of Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Sweden, and also of India, Japan and China. We believe that the permanent good of an exhibition of this kind will be manifested in the improvement of popular intelligence and industry, in diffusion of correct standards of taste and skill, and in more accurate knowledge respecting the natural resources and characteristics of the different parts of our own country. For example, the collective exhibits made by the Southern Railroad, and also by the Seaboard Air-Line and the Plant system of Florida, bring out in vivid outlines the advantages of the regions through which these railroads are constructed. The improvements in the railway connections of Atlanta with Chicago, New York, New Orleans and Florida are permanent contributions to the prosperity of the country.

11. We earnestly advise the teachers of colleges and schools near and remote to encourage their scholars to come and study this Exposition, accompanied by competent guides. With proper explanation, easily to be secured if a little effort is made, intelligent youth may learn in a few days' visit to this Exposition more than would be learned in weeks or months of ordinary study. We also advise manufacturers and merchants, those who are interested in mines, agriculture and transportation, as well as mechanics and farmers, to utilize this opportunity for observing and comparing their own work with that of others.

12. In conclusion, we congratulate the directors of the Atlanta Exposition on the success that has attended their efforts, on their public spirit, energy and resolution. We thank the Mayor and the citizens of Atlanta for their generous hospitality. We declare our opinion that the State of Georgia and the group of Cotton States associated with Georgia in this Exposition deserve from every State in the Union recognition, honor and gratitude.

DANIEL C. GILMAN,

President of the Johns Hopkins University, and Commissioner of Awards, Atlanta Exposition.

A. E. STEVENSON,

Vice-President of the United States.

HENRY L. ABBOTT,

United States Engineers; Chairman of the Board of Highest Awards.

C. K. ADAMS,

President of the University of Wisconsin.

GEORGE E. BELKNAP,

Rear-Admiral, United States Navy.

JOHN BIRKINBINE,

Late President of the Society of Mining Engineers.

D. H. BURNHAM,

Architect and Director of Works, Chicago Exposition.

M. H. CHASE,

of R. H. Macy & Co., New York.

J. L. M. CURRY,

Secretary of the Peabody Education Fund.

CHARLES W. DABNEY, JR.,

President of the University of Tennessee and U. S. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

G. BROWN GOODE,

Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution,—in charge of the National Museum.

GARDINER G. HUBBARD,

of Washington, D. C.

J. M. McBRYDE,

President of the Virginia College of Agriculture.

T. C. MENDENHALL,

Late Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey; President of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

SIMON NEWCOMB,

United States Navy; Superintendent of the Nautical Almanac.

IRA REMSEN,

Professor of Chemistry in Baltimore; Editor of The American Chemical Journal.

HENRY A. ROWLAND,

Professor of Physics in Baltimore.

C. S. SARGENT,

Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

WILLIAM R. SMITH,

Superintendent U. S. Botanic Garden, Washington, D. C.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD,—

J. HOWARD GORE,

Secretary of the Board; Late United States Commissioner-General to the Antwerp Exhibition.